1486. ff 10

A LETTER FROM A West-Country Freeholder To the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary Web—r

The Second Edition.

Right Honourable,

May it please your Honour,

WE have received, in theſeParts, a *printed Paper*, written by our Country-Man, concerning your Honour, together with an *Anſwer* thereunto, written by your Honour's Directions, which, with great Submiſſion to your Honour, is, in our Opinion, *Nothing to the Purpoſe*; but we are inform'd, your Honour, who is a great Man, doth not care for the Trouble of Spelling or Writing *Engliſh*, otherwiſe, we know your Honour could have made a better *Anſwer* your ſelf. We ſee by the News Papers, that your Honour, who hath a main Intereſt at Court, hath got him put out of all his Places: We would not, however, have him be caſt down; for we have never the worſe Opinion of him becauſe he hath not your Honour's good Word, and like him ſo much the better for his *Plain Speaking*.

We know his Birth and Parentage a little better than your Honour, tho' your Honour's *Book-Writer* hath pretended to give an Account of them: His Grandfather was an honeſt Gentleman, and always lived among

among us upon his own Eſtate. The old Doctor, his Father, who had the good Luck, as we ſay in the Country, to outlive his elder Brothers, had a clear Concern left him of eight or nine hundred a Year, as good Land as ever was plough'd, beſides the beſt Living in all *Dorſetſhire*, and a good Fortune with old Biſhop *Gulſtone*'s only Daughter: He bred up his Children as well as any Lord in the Land, always kept his Coach and four Horſes, and a Glaſs of as good *March* Beer, or *October*, as any Gentleman in the County. We hope the young 'Squire will do the ſame. One of his Uncles ſerved among us as a Member of Parliament, and we will do our beſt to ſend him up to *Weſtminſter-Houſe*, where we hope he will not be afraid to ſpeak the Truth, either concerning your Honour, or your Honour's Maſter.

We all know in theſe Parts, that our little Countryman is Metal to the Back: But if your Honour hath any Mind to try him your ſelf, we believe he will deſire no Favour from your Honour, but *fair Play*. But, may it pleaſe your Honour, we hear ſtrange Matters, and ſad Stories in the Country; and that your Honour loves Fighting, as well as Writing, at ſecond Hand. Your Honour mayhap may have heard of an old Proverb, That *Dead Men tell no Tales*: But we are certain none of thoſe noble Gentlemen who bang'd the *French*, and for whoſe Sake we pay'd all our Taxes, will ever be a Diſgrace to old *England*: And we believe our good King GEORGE would take it very unkindly, either from your Honour, or the greateſt Peer in the Land, to have any of his Officers employed to murder honeſt Gentlemen, and to fight your Honour's Battles.

We hear our Country-Man is going to *Ireland*, and may happen to talk, in the Parliament there, about your Honour. We hope, nevertheleſs, your Honour will take ſpecial Care that he may not ſerved as we hear Colonel *Lutterell* was; for your Honour may be depend upon it, we ſhall expect to have a very good Account of him. To tell your Honour the Truth, we look upon him, in the Country, to be near as good a Man as your Honour. We hear that he took rarely well to his Leſſon at School, chopp'd *Logick* mainly at *Oxford*, and afterwards read over the Law of the Land at the Inns of Court, inſomuch, that one Way or other, he hath ſcraped together a good deal of Book-Learning: Whereas, we cannot find that your Honour was any better brought up, or is any thing more of a Conjurer than one of our own Country Juſtice's Clerks. We hear, however, that your Honour is growing mainly Rich, and hath ſet up a Coach; and we all of us approve of the Colour of your Honour's Liveries, which we hear is *Yellow*. But though we can be content, may it pleaſe your Honour, to pay three Shillings in the Pound to beat the *Dons*, if need be, we

ſhould

ſhould be ſorry to hear any of it went towards your Honour's Equipage; for we find by our Countryman's Book, that your Honour hath got more Money already, in one Year, than may a gallant Officer who hath loſt his Limbs in the Service, or than any of our Country Gentlemen, who have made many a Bonfire, and given many a Hogſhead of Ale, out of pure Love to King GEORGE.

May it pleaſe your Honour, we Country Folk ſhould be glad to be govern'd by thoſe who have a little more Wit than our ſelves; and for ought we can find, your Honour was never cut out, any more than one of us, to be a Secretary of State or a Privy-Counſellor. We hope, your Honour will conſider of what we have ſaid, and take nothing amiſs; for tho' we are plain-ſpoken Men, we love King GEORGE, and would be glad to have him well ſerved. We are,

Right Honourable,

May it pleaſe your Honour,

Your Honour's

Moſt Humble SERVANTS.

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